COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, the *3rd of August 1932.*
19th of Karkadagam 1107.

The House met at half-past Eleven of the clock with the President in the Chair. Messrs. S. S. Koder, K. T. Mathew and P. I. Varugis were absent.

Questions and Answers

Agency to the Anamalai Timber Trust for the sale of timber.

26. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

A. (1) whether the Anamalai Timber Trust was given agency for the sale of Government timber;

(2) if so, on what terms; how much timber has been sold through the agency and at what price;

(3) what was the average price realised per candy of the various species of timber sold (a) through the agency and (b) by the Government during the corresponding months of the previous 2 years;

(4) whether any agreement has been entered into; and if so, a copy of the same may be placed on the table;

B. (1) whether there was any proposal for the purchase of Government teak by the said Trust;

(2) if so, on what terms;

(3) what were the orders of the Government on the proposal;

(4) how much has been sold to the Trust and at what price; and

(5) how much has been realised; the date of the agreement, if any?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—A. (1) Yes.

(2) For terms, please see answer to sub-division (2) question No. 498 of the Legislative Session of 1107. No timber has actually been sold through the agency.

(3) No reply is called for in view of answer to (2) above.

(4) No agreement has been entered into.

B. (1) No, but Mr. Kuruvilla, the Executive Director of the Trust, secured an offer for Government teak.

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(2) At Rs. 37 per candy.
(3) The Government accepted the offer.
(4) None.
(5) No amount has been realised. There is no agreement.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What is the general procedure regarding the giving of Government agency to others —whether they take any agreement or not?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—The system of giving agency for the sale of timber has not been in existence. There has been no definite procedure regarding the sale of timber.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I do not ask about the sale of timber alone. What is the general procedure regarding the giving of agency in any matter?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—As a rule agreements are taken.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Then why this deviation in this matter alone?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—This is not a deviation exactly. It depends on circumstances. In some cases the Government may feel that there is no necessity for an agreement.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—Has there been any other instance where agencies were thus given without any written agreement being entered into?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I am sorry, I want notice.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Was there any special reason for not taking any written agreement in this matter?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There is no special reason.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was any commission given to this agent?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—No.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was the sale by the Government suspended during the time of the agency?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—No.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Is this arrangement to continue indefinitely?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—No. It was only a tentative arrangement for a short period and it is over.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—May I know what the Government proposes to do with regard to the sale of timber in future?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—Timber will be sold in the ordinary course.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—Were there any other offers from other people in respect of the sale of timber?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—No.

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Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Did the Government advertise and call for offers from other people?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—No.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—May I know why it was not advertised?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is not an ordinary contract or work which could be advertised so that every sort of people be allowed to come into terms. This is a special item of work which the Government want to be done on their own behalf and they could give it only to select persons in whom they have confidence.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—Was there a dearth of people in whom the Government could place their confidence in the matter of sale of timber?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The very fact that we did not advertise shows that there was no dearth of people.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—Was tenders called for in this matter?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—Are not tenders generally called for in these matters?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The question of tenders does not arise in this matter.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Was any timber sold from the Forest Department after the agency was given?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—Yes.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Is not this agent entitled to get commission from the Government for this?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—No.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.— Was any teak sold after the offer referred to in (b)?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—No.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—When was this offer made?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—About seven or eight months back.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—On the 27th February 1932.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Did the Government sell any timber after this offer?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is there any agreement regarding this offer?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—No.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know why they did not take any agreement knowing already that the agency did not effect any sale according to the terms of the agency?

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Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—It was not a condition of the agency.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—According to the terms of the agency no sale was effected. Then the Managing Director of the Agency secured an offer for Government teak. Knowing that he was not able to effect any sale, why did not the Government take any agreement from him during the last eight months?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—At that time it could not be known that the agency would be unable to sell any timber.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—May I know whether there was any special reason for the Government to place their confidence in this Anamalai Timber Trust and also for not calling for offers from other people?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There is no special reason. The Government had confidence in them and so it was given to them.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—Had he any previous dealings with regard to the sale of timber with the Government of Cochin?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—Yes.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Cannot the Government choose confident men from among the tenderers?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There is no question of calling for tenders in an agreement like this. We have to call for tenders only if a work has got to be executed by a contractor or so. This is not a case like that. Government wanted an agent to procure orders from persons outside and to see if there are persons who are likely to take timber. For a person of that kind you cannot call for tenders to get something done in this direction. Tenders can be called for only when there are works to be done such as the P. C. R. and original works in the Panchayats and D. P. W.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—Then is his position like that of a canvassing agent for the Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is that of an agent, whether that of canvassing agent or a selling agent I do not know.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—Has he undertaken his work for no remuneration?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—He is doing it on commission.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—Is he an agent of the Government even now?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No, the term has expired already?

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Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Does the Government propose to continue the agency?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It has been answered long ago. It has not been decided.

Public Tank for Trippunittura.

27. Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether there were mass petitions from the inhabitants of Trippunittura praying for a public tank for bathing purposes;

(b) whether a deputation led by the then M. L. C., Mr. Thomas Manjuran waited upon the Diwan on 8th Meenam 1106 to press the same request;

(c) what, if any, were the resolutions passed by the Nadamel Village Panchayat regarding the same;

(d) what, if any, were the recommendations of the Registrar of Village Panchayats regarding the same;

(e) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the article in the Satyanadam (സത്യനാദം) published on 27th Meenam 1107 under the heading "കൊച്ചിലിവാൻമാരുടെ ഇടയ്ക്കു ശ്രദ്ധയ്ക്ക്";

(f) whether the Government has received a mass petition, dated 22nd Edavam 1107, signed by nearly 2,000 persons residing in Trippunittura, Nadama, Thiruvankulam, Irimpanam, Thekkumbhagam, Erur, etc., protesting against the construction of a well instead of the tank and praying to utilise the amount sanctioned for the well for the construction of the tank;

(g) what, if any, were the resolutions passed by the Nadamel Village Panchayat regarding the construction of the well;

(h) whether there are not public tanks maintained by the Government in the towns of Irinjalakkuda, Trichur, etc.;

(k) whether there are not similar tanks in Trippunittura itself, reserved exclusively for the use of the Caste-Hindus;

(l) whether the Government have received any petitions requesting for a well instead of a tank;

(m) if the answer to the above question is in the negative, why the Government still insists on a well instead of a tank?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Copy of the resolution passed by the Panchayat at its meeting held on 19th Vrischigam 1107 is appended. (*Appendix I*).

(d) The Registrar had no occasion to make any recommendation in the matter.

(e) Yes.

(f) Yes.

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